



2003 - 2004 Hunting Regulations

Welcome To Amistad National Recreation Area

Amistad National Recreation Area offers hunting opportunities for our park visitors. There are only five areas within the park where hunting is allowed. The remaining shoreline and adjacent areas are not open to public hunting. Hunting is in accordance with the 2003-2004 Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual Hunting Regulations, except as stated in the following listings. Hunting regulations are enforced in these hunt areas by the National Park Service Park Rangers and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Wardens.

Archery-only Hunting Opportunities:

- **Archery and crossbow equipment is allowed in accordance with the Texas Parks and Wildlife 2003-2004 hunting regulations.**
- **Deer** may be hunted during both the archery season and the general season using archery equipment.
- **Mouflon Sheep** may be hunted during both the archery and general deer season using archery equipment. There is no daily bag limit for Mouflon Sheep.
- **Aoudad Sheep** may be hunted during both the archery and general deer season using archery equipment. There is no daily bag limit for Aoudad Sheep.
- **Feral Hog** may be hunted during both the archery and general deer season using archery equipment. There is no daily bag limit for Feral Hog.
- **Javelina** may be hunted during both the archery and general deer season using archery equipment.
- **Turkey** may be hunted during both the archery and general turkey season using archery equipment. **We do not offer the spring turkey season.**
- **Rabbit** may be hunted during both the archery and general deer season using archery equipment. Rabbit may also be hunted using shotgun but only during quail and waterfowl (duck) season.

Firearm Hunting Opportunities:

- **Rifles and handguns are prohibited in the hunt areas.**
- **Shotguns are allowed in the hunt areas to hunt the following game:**
- **Dove** may be hunted during the Central Zone Dove Season.
- **Quail** may be hunted during the quail season.
- **Teal** may be hunted during the September Teal-Only Season.
- **Ducks** may be hunted during the Late Migratory Game Bird Season.
- **Rabbit** may be hunted during the dove, quail and waterfowl (duck) seasons using a shotgun.

The taking of any other wildlife not specifically listed above is prohibited.

National Park Service Annual Hunting Permits:

Hunters may obtain their **Annual Hunting Permit** at the Park Headquarters Building from August 15-31. After September 1, they may be obtained at the Amistad National Recreation Area Visitor Information Building (9685 Hwy 90W). A **2003-2004 Texas Hunting License** and a **Drivers License** or official photo identification card is required in order to obtain an **Annual Hunting Permit**. Hunters will each receive one **Annual Hunting Permit** which will be valid for the entire 2003-2004 hunting season. They are required to keep their **Annual Hunting Permit** in their possession while hunting along with their Texas Hunting License and a Drivers License or official photo identification card. These **Annual Hunting Permits** are not transferable to another hunter.

Hunters are responsible for filling in the **Hunter Data Sheet** (located on the back of their permit) and turning the **Annual Hunting Permit/Hunter Data Sheet** in at the end of the 2003-2004 hunting season, no later than March 15, 2004, whether or not game was harvested

National Park Service Annual Hunting Permits: (Continued)

The “date” and “hunt area” blocks on the Hunter Data Sheet must be filled out at the beginning of each hunt day. The “game harvested” block must be filled out at the end of each hunt day. If you hunt at two hunt areas in one hunt day, list both hunt areas separately, as shown in the example on the Data Sheet.

Camping:

- Backcountry camping by boat is allowed along the lakeshore as long as you are outside of the hunting areas. You may also camp within the designated campgrounds. There is a \$4.00 per campsite per night camping fee if you stay in a National Park Service campground (\$8.00 at Governors Landing). All weapons must be unloaded, cased, and out of sight while at your campsite.
- The display of harvested game in the National Park Service campgrounds is prohibited. However, if kept from public view, you are permitted to skin and quarter your deer at your campsite. Be discreet. Non-hunters use the campgrounds. Clean up the area when you are through.

Additional Park-Specific Regulations:

- **Hunters are not permitted to consume or possess alcoholic beverages in the hunt areas.**
- Weapons must be unloaded and cased during transportation within the boundary of Amistad NRA.
- The baiting and/or feeding of wildlife, cutting of vegetation, and trapping are prohibited.
- Ducks may be hunted by boat within 100 yards of the exterior shoreline boundary of all hunt areas. Shooting from the boat must be directed toward the hunt area shoreline. Ducks can also be hunted from shore along all hunt area shoreline boundaries and at all interior ponds located inside the hunt areas.
- You may only use bird dogs to hunt dove, quail or waterfowl. All dogs must be on a leash outside of the hunt areas and bird dogs must be under control at all times while in the hunting areas.
- Target practice (including skeet shooting and archery) is prohibited anywhere within Amistad NRA
- The gutting of deer in the parking areas is prohibited. Gut your deer out in the hunt area.
- The construction of deer stands on trees is prohibited (it damages the trees). Portable tripod deer stands are allowed, and may be left unattended up to 48 hours within the hunt areas. Ground blinds are acceptable but the cutting of live vegetation is prohibited. The use of vegetation that is both **dead & already down** is allowed in constructing a ground blind.
- All deer stands are to be marked with the hunters’ permit number from their Annual Hunting Permit. Deer stands with no hunting permit numbers visible will be removed by Park Rangers.
- **Warning:** Sinkholes, cactus, and plants with rigid thorns are located throughout the hunt areas. Use caution, especially during low light situations.

New Rules:

- Failure to comply with hunting regulations will result in the immediate cancellation of your hunting permit.
- Failure to turn in your completed “Hunter Data Sheet” showing hunt dates, hunt areas, and game harvested could result in the issuance of a **\$100 Violation Notice** by authority of 36 CFR, Section 1.6 (g)(2).

Deer Hunters are asked to cooperate in our Deer Management Study (an age analysis of deer harvested). Drop off or mail one side of the lower jaw to Amistad National Recreation Area with a note indicating date and hunt area where the deer was harvested.

Amistad National Recreation Area
ATTN: John Little
9685 Hwy 90 West
HCR-3, Box 25I
Del Rio, TX 78840

SEASONS

Migratory Game Birds (Dove) All Hunt Areas are in the "Central Zone" Sept 1, 2003 - Oct 30, 2003 Dec 26, 2003 - Jan 4, 2004 Bag Limit- 12 mourning, white-winged and white-tipped to include not more than two white-tips. Shooting hours ½ hour before sunrise to sunset	September Teal-Only Season (Blue-Winged, Green-Winged, and Cinnamon) September 13 - 28, 2004 Bag Limit: 4 in the aggregate Possession Limit: 8 in the aggregate Shooting hours ½ hour before sunrise to sunset.	Quail Oct. 25, 2003 - Feb 29, 2004 Bag Limit - 15 per day Possession - 45
Deer <u>Archery Season</u> Sept 27, 2003 - Oct 26, 2003 <u>General Season</u> Nov 1, 2003 - Jan 4, 2004 <u>Special Late General Season</u> Jan 5, 2004 - Jan 18, 2004 (antlerless and spike bucks only) Bag Limit for all seasons combined: 5 deer: (no more than 2 bucks)	Javelina, Feral Hog, Mouflon & Aoudad <u>Archery Season</u> Sept 27, 2003 - Oct 26, 2003 <u>General Season</u> Nov 1, 2003 - Jan 4, 2004 <u>Special Late General "Deer" Season</u> Jan 5, 2004 - Jan 18, 2004 Bag Limit (Javelina - 2 per year) No bag limit for Feral Hog, Mouflon or Aoudad Sheep	Turkey <u>Archery Season</u> Sept 27, 2003 - Oct 26, 2003 <u>General Season</u> Nov 1, 2003 - Jan 4, 2004 Bag Limit for both seasons combined: 4 (either sex) No Spring Turkey Season

Hunt Area 1: (1440 acres at current low lake level: 1080 ft. msl) Walk-in and boat access available. Vehicle parking is available at two locations, marked with signs, between the railroad tracks and Highway 90. One parking area is across Highway 90 from the NPS Rock Quarry Group Campground, and the second is 1/2 mile further west on Highway 90. The north and west boundaries are along and in line with the fence line marked with NPS boundary signs, and the remainder of the boundary is the exterior shoreline along the Devils River from the railroad bridge to the mouth of the Devils River unless posted otherwise. **DRIVING ACROSS THE RAILROAD TRACKS TO GAIN ACCESS TO THE RAILROAD RIGHT-OF-WAY SERVICE ROAD IS PROHIBITED.**

Hunt Area 2: (1050 acres at current low lake level: 1080 ft. msl) Walk-in and boat access available. Vehicle access by turning right off of Hwy 90 in front of the blue Travelers Information radio station sign between Box Canyon turnoff and Evans Creek Bridge. Vehicle parking is available in a parking lot 3/4 mile from the Highway 90/Evans Creek junction by driving in on a dirt road along an old railroad bed. The north and west boundaries are along and in line with the fence line marked with NPS boundary signs, and the remainder of the boundary is shoreline along Evans Creek, Castle Canyon, and Guajia Bay sections of the lake unless posted otherwise. During the current low lake levels, the boundary between Guajia Bay subdivision and shoreline is marked with signs and flagging. Also, the north boundary fence line ends before reaching Evans Creek, and the space between is posted with signs and flagging. **THIS HUNT AREA IS SUBJECT TO CLOSURE ON SHORT NOTICE WHEN THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE GUN RANGE IS IN USE BY AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL FOR OFFICIAL PURPOSES.**

Hunt Area 3: (300 acres at current low lake level: 1080 ft. msl) Walk-in and boat access available. Vehicle parking is available on the north side of Highway 90 one mile west of the NPS Rock Quarry Group Campground. The north and west boundaries are along and in line with the fence line marked with NPS boundary signs, and the remainder of the boundary is the exterior shoreline unless posted otherwise.

Hunt Area 4: (750 acres at current low lake level: 1080 ft. msl) Boat access only. Approximately a 1/2 square mile on the end of Long Point, the peninsula between the Devils River and San Pedro Arm. The north and east boundary is marked along and in line with a fence line extending from the Devils River to the San Pedro Arm, and is marked with NPS boundary signs. The remainder of the boundary is exterior shoreline unless otherwise posted. We recommend approaching the hunt area from the San Pedro Arm side. Islands between the Devils River channel and the hunt area make access to the hunt area difficult during the current low lake level conditions.

Hunt Area 5: (600 acres at current low lake level: 1080 ft. msl) Walk-in and boat access available. Vehicle parking is at the southeast corner adjacent to Highway 277 N. about one mile south of the Highway 277 N. Bridge. The south and east boundaries are along and in line with the fence line marked with NPS boundary signs, and the remainder of the boundary is the exterior shoreline along the San Pedro Arm of the lake unless otherwise posted.

Amistad National Recreation Area Hunting Program Comment Sheet

The overall expense to Amistad National Recreation Area to make the Hunting Program available was roughly \$15,000 for the 2002/2003 hunting season. A fee will be imposed starting with the 2004/2005 hunting season in order to continue the Hunting Program here at Amistad. Amistad will be able to keep 80% of the fee money for its operations. We average about 1100 hunting permits being issued each year. If we are able to trim costs, a \$15 annual hunting fee will suffice. If not, a \$20 annual hunting fee will be required.

What is your opinion concerning a \$15-20 annual hunting fee? _____

Do you have any suggestions as other options to cover the expense or ideas to improve the hunting program without increasing its costs? _____

Another problem we are experiencing is the invasion of exotics, primarily Mouflon sheep in the Hunt Area #5 region. While these have been available to hunt with archery for several years now, little success is being made to eliminate them. A proposal has been made to have a lottery with 8-10 hunters, hunting as a group with two consecutive Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday hunting periods available to each winning group. The use of shotguns/slugs would be the only weapons allowed. Lottery hunts would take place prior to and after the regular hunting season. There would be a \$5 fee for entering the lottery.

What is your opinion on having the lottery hunts during the 2004/2005 season? Do you have any suggestions that might work better (no long rifles due to safety concerns for the adjacent subdivision and park visitors)?

Do you have any other suggestions, concerns, or complaints regarding our current and proposed Hunting Program? _____

Thank you for your comments. I hope you had an enjoyable and successful hunting season.